



INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

EMPHASIS ON BODY SUBSTANCE PRECAUTIONS

**Section of Communicable Disease Control
and Veterinary Public Health
Division of Environmental Health and
Communicable Disease Prevention**

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FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES**

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and promoting the health of Missourians by assessing health status and needs,
developing policies and priorities, and assuring that the state is responding appropriately.

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Section of Communicable Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health

Vision

Missouri will be free of communicable diseases.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Section of Communicable Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health is to prevent and control communicable diseases. The Section is committed to accomplish the following activities:

- education
- establishment of public health policies and guidelines
- data collection and analysis, and
- assuring effective interventions.

Acknowledgments

This document was developed in 1992 as the product of a consensus workgroup formed to develop a plan on the prevention and control of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and other antibiotic resistant organisms in long term care facilities. Consensus was achieved following four meetings held in 1991, with representatives from key health care agencies and organizations geographically distributed throughout Missouri. Representatives brought experience in long term care, infection control, infectious diseases, pharmacy, administration, and public health. The original document was subsequently printed several thousand times, distributed statewide to all long term care facilities and sent by request to over thirty states and Canada.

There has been a continuing need to discuss critical issues related to emerging infectious diseases and infection control in the community and in all types of health care facilities statewide. Because of this need, the 1991 consensus group was recognized in 1995 as the advisory body to the Missouri Department of Health and officially named the Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control. Members of the Revision Committee have contributed time and expertise to the revision of this 1999 edition, which is endorsed by the entire Advisory Committee.

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INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES EMPHASIS ON BODY SUBSTANCE PRECAUTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

A Guide to Using This Manual

This document contains scientifically based information to improve the assessment of residents. It provides nursing professionals with criteria for identifying specific body-site infections. This enhances the objectivity of reporting signs and symptoms to providers and helps providers make decisions whether or not to culture sites, order other diagnostic tests, and/or prescribe treatment, including antimicrobials.

Health care professionals in long-term care facilities can find detailed guidelines in this document for the care of residents with specific body-site infections, as well as principles and practices for preventing the spread of infectious organisms to other residents and staff. Recommending measures to prevent and control the development or spread of antibiotic resistant organisms remains one of the primary purposes of this document. Infection control practices are effective when they are understood and carried out by the staff, regardless of staff turnover. These practices must be monitored for residents known to be infected with certain organisms and for residents who are unknowingly infected and/or are asymptomatic carriers of the organisms.

The use of this manual should not be limited as a guide for individual resident care, but should be used to establish high quality infection control programs in Missouri long-term care facilities. The manual provides tools for evaluating the incidence of resident or staff infections on specific wards, wings or units in a facility. The epidemiology of evaluating infections by time, place, and person is possible with the use of these tools. Trends can be demonstrated with the use of tables, charts, and graphs in order to illustrate where infection control problems exist and where quality improvement is needed.

In summary, this manual is intended to be a working document for the staff on each unit and for policymakers in a long term care facility. It will not be helpful to physicians, nurses, technicians, certified nurse assistants, orderlies, or administrative personnel if it is not readily available as a resource.

We, the Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control, Missouri Department of Health, encourage users to give us feedback on the benefits and the need for further revisions of this document. With feedback from users, we can all contribute to the assurance that residents in long term care facilities are provided with quality infection control practices.

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Updates/Revisions

The "Infection Control Guidelines for Long Term Care Facilities Emphasis on Body Substance Precautions" manual will be made available via the Internet through the Department of Health Home Page at <http://www.health.state.mo.us>. The manual can be found under Publications.

Future updates and/or revisions to this manual will also be made available through the department's web site. Updates and/or revisions will be added to the main manual and will also be available individually to make it easier to identify updates. Updated manual sections can also be identified by checking the page headers.

Written notice of the initial availability of revisions and/or updates on the department's web site will be mailed to recipients who received the manual in paper form. Should access to the department's web site be unavailable to a manual recipient, paper copies of updates and/or revisions may be requested and will be provided at a fee to cover the cost of printing and shipping.

If you have questions about manual updates and/or revisions, please contact the Section of Communicable Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health at (573) 751-6113 or (800) 392-0272.

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